

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 26, 2008. Claims 1-11 and 13-18 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1 and 17 are in independent form. Claim 12 has been canceled, and its recitations incorporated into Claims 1 and 17; these actions are taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 3-6, 8-10, 13, 15 and 18 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies, to clarify (in Claim 3) that the photoelectric conversion element is of the MIS type, to modify the language of Claim 9 to make clear that the channel dimension referred to is that along the direction extending between the source and the drain (thus conforming the claim language to the structure illustrated in Figs. 6; corresponding changes have been made to the specification), and to correct minor typographical errors that have been noted. In addition, the title has been amended to make it more descriptive, as required in the Office Action, and the original specification has been replaced with a substitute specification, submitted herewith in both a marked and a clean version; no new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note the statement in the Office Action that the information cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated November 21, 2006, has not been considered because no statement of relevance was provided for one of the documents listed therein. From a review of the file on PAIR, it appears to Applicants that the Examiner has not considered that document (a foreign office action), but has considered the other documents listed in that Information Disclosure Statement. If Applicants' understanding is incorrect, clarification is requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claims 9 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in proper independent form. Since as noted the subject matter of Claim 12

is now present in both independent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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